

**Legislative Program Review and Investigation Committee Testimony**  
**President Susan Herbst**  
**University of Connecticut**  
**-October 3, 2013-**

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and members of the Committee, thank you for inviting us here today and for your support of and confidence in the University of Connecticut. The General Assembly's investments in UConn are the reason we have become a top choice for Connecticut's high achieving students and are now ranked 19th among public research universities in the nation by U.S. News.

One of the primary reasons I came to UConn is the commitment that the General Assembly has made to its public higher education institutions over the past 20 years. Connecticut is very fortunate to have elected officials who recognize the unique role that its flagship public research university plays in educating our future civic and industry leaders, professionals and entrepreneurs and serving as a key contributor to the state's economic development. Few *legislatures in the nation* understand this right now, and ours is one, thanks to you.

Today, I would like to speak briefly about UConn's affordability and value, and then ask our Provost, Mun Choi, to provide you with more details. Also joining me today is our Vice-President for Enrollment Management, Wayne Locust and our Executive Vice-President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer, Rich Gray.

### **Affordability & Value**

The central question of the Committee's study is quite simple: Is UConn accessible, affordable and a good value to students? By every measure, the answer is a resounding YES. Connecticut taxpayers and policy makers should be quite proud of UConn—where our core principles of access, affordability and quality, guide every program we offer, service we provide and major decision we make.

Nothing speaks more loudly about the affordability and quality of our programs and services than student demand. Unlike most other public enterprises, UConn operates within a very competitive market. Prospective students have options when it comes to choosing the school that is the best fit for them. And Connecticut's high-achieving students have the most options in deciding which institution they will attend.

Students and parents appreciate value (the intersection between quality and cost), and that's why they seek the kind of academic excellence UConn offers at such a competitive price. While enrollments at the other private and public universities and colleges in Connecticut are on a downward trajectory, mirroring state and regional demographic trends, the opposite has been true at UConn.

### **Fiscal Challenges & Cost**

It is a testament to the University's commitment to access and affordability that UConn has remained a great value in spite of tremendous recent fiscal challenges.

As a result of the global recession in 2008, our state appropriation and fringe benefit allocation has been reduced by \$41.6 million.

Other cost drivers have also increased significantly in the past two decades, including information technology – (which has expanded dramatically), energy, the operation of facilities, food, transportation and other operations to support an enrollment growth of more than 7,500 students since 1996. Unlike most other higher education institutions, UConn has been required to take on all the responsibilities associated with operating a mid-sized municipality. We are responsible for public safety (including the operation of police and fire departments), transportation (including roads and buses), public water supply, energy co-generation, waste treatment, and natural resources management. Providing these basic services requires resource allocations that virtually no other higher education institution bears.

### **Focus on Accessibility: Meeting Financial Need**

Despite these fiscal challenges, UConn's commitment to providing the best financial aid package to those who need assistance most has not wavered. UConn continues to increase its student financial aid budget to meet the needs of our students. And when tuition rises, so does the amount of money set aside to support financial aid.

### **Keeping High Achieving, Diverse Connecticut Students in-State for College**

We have been extremely successful in halting the so-called "brain drain" – one of the major goals of UCONN 2000. Undergraduate enrollment has grown dramatically as have degrees awarded. And once again, this year's incoming freshman class is the largest, most academically qualified and most diverse freshman class ever enrolled at UConn. Merit aid has been critical in enabling us to compete successfully with outstanding out-of-state institutions for these high achieving students.

### **Is UConn Performing?**

No conversation about college affordability is complete without discussing outcomes, particularly the retention and graduation rates as they have a direct impact on cost to students, families and institutions. The University is pleased to report success here as well with a six-year graduation rate that is one of the highest among the nation's top public research institutions.

### **Conclusion**

President Obama is focusing on the cost of college, and we are thrilled that his administration has now made this a priority. With other presidents from around the nation, I serve on the board of directors of the American Council on Education, and last week in DC we were pleased to host a visit from the President's top policy advisors on higher education. As you who follow higher education know, the administration will lead -- and indeed dictate -- the nature of the national conversation across states. It was wonderful to hear the thoughts of his policy team, since UConn will do so well in the sort of cost/benefit analysis that shall serve as the basis for a federal system of college ratings, now underway.

Access, affordability and quality will continue to serve as UConn's guiding principles as we strive to meet the expectations and aspirations of Connecticut's students and their families, as well as Connecticut's elected officials and taxpayers. The commitment of our faculty and staff and the strategic state support you have provided have made UConn an outstanding competitive value and enabled us to achieve the goals of UCONN 2000 by attracting a larger, more highly qualified and diverse student body to UConn than policy makers could have ever imagined when the General Assembly enacted this ground-breaking legislation in 1995. Now, with *Next Generation Connecticut*, we will build upon our previous success, retain greater numbers of highly talented students in Connecticut, and be a force that drives innovation, stimulates economic growth and enhances the quality of life for the citizens of Connecticut.



## **Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee**

### **Study of UConn's Affordability to Students**

October 3, 2013



## **Affordability & Value**

- Is UConn accessible, affordable and a good value for CT students?
- Based on the decisions of increasing numbers of high-achieving students and their parents make in choosing UConn:
  - The answer is a resounding YES
- UConn is a national public research university that competes with top flagships for students and faculty



## UConn's Competitive Marketplace

- Student demand is the most important indicator of value and affordability
- 80% of our UG students are Connecticut residents
- Since '95, we've made tremendous progress:
  - UG enrollment increased to 22,595 (54% increase)
  - UG degrees increased to 5,148 (74% increase)
  - Applications increased to 29,089 (169% increase)
- Storrs freshmen enrollment increased by 21% in 2013
  - Mean SAT score of 1233
  - CT Mean SAT score is 1018



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## CT's High-Achieving Students

- Since '95, UConn attracted over 1,700 Valedictorians & Salutatorians
- Since '95, Honors enrollment increased from 200 to 450 (a mean SAT score of 1413)

Mean SAT Score By Scholarships (For In-State Students)						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Nutmeg Scholarship	1417	1443	1426	NA	1450	<b>1490</b>
Academic Excellence Scholarship	1396	1404	1406	1403	1405	<b>1416</b>
Day of Pride Scholarship	1242	1250	1303	1246	1224	<b>1310</b>



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## Commitment to Diversity

- Since '95, minority freshman enrollment increased 250%
- Freshmen year retention of minority students of 91%
- 6-year graduation rate for minority students is 77%:
  - 71% for African American students
  - 76% for Hispanic students
- Proactive programs to promote academic success:
  - Institute for Student Success
  - First Year Experiences
  - Student Support Services
  - Living & Learning Communities

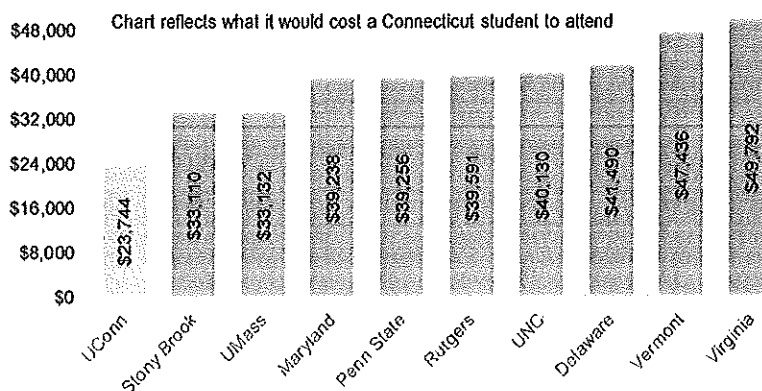


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## How Does UConn Compare?

- UConn ranked 51<sup>st</sup> in the nation in percentage increase in tuition from 2006 to 2012

FY14 Total Cost of Attendance



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## How Does UConn Compare?

Tuition & Fees 2012-13			Average Debt at Grad 2013			FY 10 Default Rates		
1	Penn State	\$16,444	1	Rutgers	\$33,761	1	Penn State	5.3%
2	Vermont	\$15,284	2	Penn State	\$33,530	2	Stony Brook	3.7%
3	UMass	\$13,230	3	Delaware	\$31,002	3	Rutgers	3.5%
4	Rutgers	\$13,073	4	Vermont	\$27,725	4	Maryland	3.0%
5	Virginia	\$12,006	5	UMass	\$26,893	4	UMass	3.0%
6	<b>UConn</b>	<b>\$11,362</b>	6	Maryland	\$24,180	6	Delaware	2.4%
7	Delaware	\$11,192	7	<b>UConn</b>	<b>\$23,822</b>	7	<b>UConn</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
8	Maryland	\$8,908	8	UNC	\$20,951	7	Virginia	2.3%
9	UNC	\$7,694	9	Stony Brook	\$20,371	9	Vermont	1.3%
10	Stony Brook	\$7,560	10	Virginia	\$17,525	10	UNC	0.7%
CHE Tuition & Fees Tables			Kiplinger's Rankings 2013			College Results Online		

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## How Does UConn Compare?

% Freshman Pell Recipients 2011			% Undergrad Pell Recipients 2011			Pell 6-Yr Grad Rate 2012		
1	Stony Brook	38%	1	Stony Brook	36%	1	Virginia	87%
2	Rutgers	29%	2	Rutgers	29%	2	UNC	83%
3	UMass	25%	3	UMass	27%	3	<b>UConn</b>	<b>78%</b>
4	<b>UConn</b>	<b>23%</b>	4	<b>UConn</b>	<b>25%</b>	4	Penn State	77%
5	Vermont	22%	5	Vermont	20%	5	Rutgers	76%
6	UNC	20%	5	UNC	20%	6	Maryland	75%
7	Penn State	16%	5	Maryland	20%	7	Stony Brook	73%
8	Maryland	15%	8	Penn State	19%	8	Vermont	70%
9	Delaware	13%	9	Delaware	13%	9	UMass	66%
9	Virginia	13%	9	Virginia	13%	NA	Delaware	Not Avail
College Results Online			College Results Online			Academic Insights		

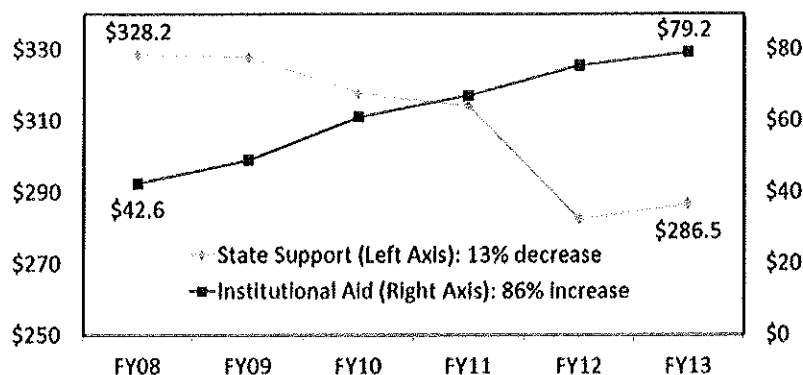
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## UConn's Competitive Marketplace

- Despite reductions in state funding, UConn increased its financial aid from \$17M in FY96 to \$85M in FY14 - 86% or \$73M is awarded to students with financial need



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## UConn's Competitive Marketplace

Institutions Sharing Most Cross-Adults with UConn

	Fall 1994	Fall 2001	Fall 2005	Fall 2007	Fall 2012
1	CCSU	UMass	Northeastern	UMass	UMass
2	BU	URI	UMass	Northeastern	Northeastern
3	UMass	Northeastern	URI	BU	BU
4	Fairfield	BU	BU	Vermont	Delaware
5	URI	UNH	Delaware	Penn State	URI
6	SCSU	Quinnipiac	Quinnipiac	Delaware	Penn State
7	ECSU	Delaware	Penn State	URI	Vermont
8	BC	Syracuse	UNH	UNH	Maryland
9	UNH	Rutgers	Providence	Maryland	Quinnipiac
10	Quinnipiac	Vermont	Fairfield	Quinnipiac	Drexel
11	Providence	Penn State	Syracuse	Syracuse	BC
12	WCSC	Fairfield	Rutgers	Rutgers	Fordham

Note: Red Font = CT Institution, Blue = New England, Green = Outside of New England

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## UConn's Competitive Marketplace

- UConn is the 19<sup>th</sup> best public university (2014 *U.S. News & World Report*)
- Ranked higher than Purdue, Maryland, Rutgers & Minnesota
- Kiplinger's ranked UConn the 25<sup>th</sup> Best Value for in-state tuition among the top 100 public universities
- Average time to graduation is 4.2 years (5<sup>th</sup> out of 58 Public Research Universities)



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## Ongoing Fiscal Challenges

- Since 2008, our appropriation and fringe benefit allocation was reduced by \$41.6 million
- UConn is responsible for financing the operations of a mid-sized municipality (public safety, water, energy, roads)
- Since 1996, UConn has absorbed increased costs for education 7,500 additional students
- Future cost drivers include *Next Generation Connecticut* requirements (by 2024):
  - 259 new faculty & 6,500 new students



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## Conclusion

- Access, affordability and quality are UConn's guiding principles
- UConn is an outstanding competitive value for the state's most highly qualified and diverse students
- *Next Generation Connecticut* will enable us to:
  - Build upon our previous success,
  - Retain greater numbers of highly talented students in Connecticut and,
  - Emerge as a driver of innovation and economic growth



